# PARADISE LAKE MAINTENANCE BURNING
## PALS# 61125
## PROPOSAL

Background Concow Units 1072, 1073, 1076, 1078, 1080, 1082, and 1083 were hand-cut, piled, and pile-burned after the July 2011, Concow Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project record of decision and before the November 2018, Camp Fire.

Proposed Project Location These units are adjacent to shoreline on the north and south sides of Paradise Lake, Magalia, California. See attached map.

Proposed Project Action and Description To continue to achieve desired conditions it is recommended to maintain these units with prescribed underburning. These units are in the wildland urban interface (WUI), nearby population centers, and require a large presence to guarantee safety throughout burning operations. This Fall/Winter, TREX will be available to supplement FRRD fuels resources. We propose to burn these units this fall or winter.

We also are seeking authorization for multiple reentry (fall, winter, or spring) over a period of years (15-30) to maintain desired conditions.

Purpose of Action Frequent fire once kept forests throughout the western US relatively open and prevented excess litter and downed wood from accumulating on the forest floor. After more than a century of fire suppression, many forests became far denser than they once were and more prone to disturbances such as uncharacteristically severe wildfire and drought.

While prescribed burning increases tree mortality somewhat, thinned and burned treatments still experience much lower mortality relative to untreated controls. Reducing a century or more of accumulated surface fuel with prescribed fire is critical for enhancing forest resilience to wildfire – another increasing threat. Without prescribed fire, heavy surface fuels can leave even thinned stands vulnerable to wildfire burning under extreme conditions. Fire also shapes the spatial dynamics of regeneration which is key to maintaining forest pattern and the eventual development of old-growth characteristics. Another potential benefit of prescribed fire is that burning may stimulate resin production, increasing the capacity of trees to resist bark beetle attack.

Need for Action The Concow Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project thinned overcrowded unburned forests and selectively removed burned dead trees to establish defensible fuel profile zone (DFPZ) conditions within the wildland urban interface (WUI) to reduce risks to rural communities from wildfires. These units provide safer and more effective locations for firefighters to initiate fire suppression. There is a need to maintain these desired conditions through the use of prescribed fire.

Additional Information The proposed action is initially thought to fall within the Categorical Exclusion (CE) authorized and described in 36 CRF 220.6(e)(6) – timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than one mile of low standard road construction.

The project is anticipated to have a decision in Fall, 2021 and implementation can begin as early as Fall, 2021. Please provide comments to Clay Davis, clay.davis@usda.gov or Jason T. Miller, jason.t.miller@usda.gov